

BULLETIN

of the
MAHONING COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY

Volume XLVI

FEBRUARY, 1976

Number 2



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Mahoning County Medical Society Meetings - - 1976

Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Jan. 20	Mar. 16	May 18	Sept. 21	Nov. 16	Dec. 21

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From the Desk of the President



There was a Man born who could walk on water. Yet Peter, a disciple, tried to do the same, but lacked faith. When he tried to walk on the same waters, he faltered and began to sink. The Man reached out his hand and saved Peter. This is a parable, but I believe it.

There is a similar hand reaching out to save us. It comes from the strongest of all medical organizations. This organization is not made of gods, but of men with similar backgrounds to ours. They may not always take the course that you believe is right, but if you do not make an effort to advise them they can be misdirected. However, they attempt to fulfill the wishes and desires of the majority.

The AMA can only hear your voice if you become a member. As a member you may present your views, submit a resolution; and your delegates will fight for you. This has happened many times, beginning as a simple statement in a county medical society and blossoming out into a momentous decision.

In spite of the many criticisms, the AMA in 1975—

- (1) has forced the Federal Government to withdraw the regulations in utilization review;
- (2) has sued HEW on maximum allowable cost control for drugs;
- (3) defeated the attempt to control residencies by federal restrictions;
- (4) established a department of negotiations to deal with any third party interference between patient and doctor;
- (5) will act to ease the professional liability insurance;
- (6) supports the physician to be free to practice in accordance with his professional judgement with the right for fee for service;
- (7) has convinced Congress to increase the retirement plan to 15% of earned income or \$7500 a year, whichever is less (Keogh Plan);
- (8) protects against any change in the original HMO law that encourages favorite treatment by the Federal Government over any other service, e.g., fee for service.

These are but eight of the many favorable actions the AMA has taken for you. These are not parables. These are facts! I believe this. Don't you? Grasp the hand that is stretched out to save you. Support the AMA so that you too can be heard.

—William E. Sovik, M.D.
President



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The opinions and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial staff nor the official views of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

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Earnest Perry, M.D.
Jack Schreiber, M.D.

Editorial

REVERIE

We are being diverted from our purpose as physicians. More and more we are overly concerning ourselves with the economics of medical practice (malpractice problems, insurance costs, operating expenses). Somehow, taking care of sick people is receiving less emphasis. In some instances, considerations regarding payment are taking precedence over helping a sick neighbor regain his health. In the past, non-payments were simply written off. Now the government programs have lulled us into expecting nearly complete payments. This is not realistic. Any compensation government gives through its various agencies towards paying the fee should be simply accepted as that much less of a fee loss. The subliminal effect on the patient of being able to utilize private medicine (as opposed to hospital clinics) should not be ignored. Unfortunately, because of anger directed at government programs, the patient is frequently the target of misdirected hostilities.

Because of this, in some circles we are being portrayed as merely health service providers and thus businessmen. This is consistent with the FTC rulings on advertising. Unfortunately, we do become distracted and begin operating medicine as a business rather than an art and service.

This trend was apparent at the recent AMA meeting in Honolulu. Much of the action taken was more consistent with trade union activities. Such areas as collective bargaining, political lobbying, PSRO and grants to medical schools were prominent. However, there was very little concern shown over public health issues like environmental pollution, smoking and inadequate diets. Shouldn't there be at least equal time and effort devoted towards "the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health," as indicated in our Mahoning County Medical Society Constitution? Are we fighting the business battles of medicine so diligently that we are losing our relationship to people and their problems?

This same misplacement of goals shows up in other areas. Even locally we are fragmenting our approach to problems. Instead of attempting to work within the already existing medical structures, rival organizations arise to fill a supposed need. Rather than splintering, more effort should be made within the existing society. The medical community is broad enough to encompass the views of the entire spectrum of philosophies. We are a medical

(Continued on Page 33)

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Editorial— REVERIE

(Continued from Page 31)

community and must overcome the differences of rival hospital staffs, specialties and personal animosities.

Since medicine is based on reason and intellect, we must deal factually with our problems, as well as with the moral and ethical in our practices. We do not abide by mutable, arbitrary rules and precedent, as does the legal profession. This does not mean we have to accept any program that is offered. Certainly we can be aggressive in opposing unnecessary governmental inroads into medicine, but we can best accomplish this by working together. At the same time we can concern ourselves with the care of our community.

Our prime concern is caring for the sick. If this cannot be accomplished in good conscience within a governmental framework, then we must change the rules, using the legal system, or leave medicine. We do not have the moral right to jeopardize those who are dependent on us for care. If our community no longer respects us enough to support us in our conflicts, then we have been deficient. After all, Youngstown is home. We must put our own home in order and continue to maintain it before we can take on any larger responsibilities. We cannot exist independently of the larger communities around us but we can attempt to modify their local impact and attempt to spread our own philosophy by example.

We are not a homogeneous assembly and there will be ego damaging personal defeats. When this happens, we must rise above these petty hurts and return as the loyal opposition. Physicians are among the best minds of our community, yet the society is being deprived of this input. If you have something on your mind, tell all of us about them.

. . . though
*We are not now that strength which in old days
 Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are, —
 One equal temper of heroic hearts,
 Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
 To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.*

—Tennyson

S. Q. LAYPIUS OBSERVES

Social security has just about ruined an old medical tradition. Ever since the early days doctors have taken care of each other and their immediate families without charge. I dare not try to estimate the number of house calls, office appointments and hospital visits old S. Q. and his family have had from his medical and dental friends.

Some have been paid one way or another by gifts, referral of patients or special favors but inadequately.

As we grow older we have more illness and need for medical treatment. Old folks feel guilty when they cannot pay for their medical care but Medicare has changed that for most elderly patients. It will pay 80 percent of doctor's fees for nearly every kind of treatment. Some doctors are loathe to send in their bills but they should not be. Medicare requires that the attendant be a licensed physician. It says nothing about family relationship. The I.R.S. takes a good bite out of your income for Medicare Plan B.

That goes to pay for medical care and physicians should not hesitate to use it.

When old S. Q. has received medical care he sends a Request for Payment form to his doctor to get paid 80 percent of their usual fee from Medicare.

S. Q. recommends that procedure to all his old old friends.

—J. L. F.

DR. ABDU HONORED AT INSTALLATION BANQUET



Top, left: Dr. Abdu receives an appreciation plaque from Dr. Sovik. Right: Dr. Sovik is tendered the gavel. Bottom: Dr. and Mrs. Abdu with daughters, Elaine, Roseann and Leila. Right: The Flex-o-belles.

Mrs. Cyanne Abdu and the three Abdu daughters, Leila, Elaine and Roseann, were on hand at the installation banquet see Dr. Rashid Abdu receive an appreciation plaque for his leadership as president of the Mahoning County Medical Society for 1975. The presentation was made by Dr. William E. Sovik, incoming president.

In return, Dr. Abdu presented a new gavel to Dr. Sovik. The gavel was made by Dr. Pat Cestone. Dr. Abdu also presented a bound volume of the 1975 *Bulletin* to editor, Dr. Earnest Perry.

In a solemn moment, Dr. Abdu called for silence in respect for the five members of the Medical Society who died during the past year. These were Dr. J. M. Basile, Dr. H. E. Hatthorn, Dr. R. G. Mossman, Dr. S. A. Myers and Dr. R. W. Rummell. Dr. Abdu also expressed thanks to two members who completed several years service on council, Dr. Pat Brucoli and Dr. William Moskalik.

Prior to turning over the gavel, Dr. Abdu called all of the officers, delegates and council members to the front and administered the oath of office.

Although the ceremonial portion of the evening was almost totally disrupted by the unexpected appearance of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant (Dr. Jim Anderson), all business was efficiently conducted and the program was concluded with entertainment by the Flex-o-belles, a ladies barbershop quartet. Approximately 125 physicians and wives were in attendance, the crowd being so large that it was necessary to move the meeting into the largest room at the Youngstown Club.

1976 COUNCIL INSTALLED



Dr. Abdu, with the help of Roseann (foreground) installs officers and council for 1976.

Although the new council had already begun work, with the first official meeting being on Jan. 13, the official installation took place at the Jan. 20th meeting. Council members are: Drs. R. Abdu, J. J. Anderson, A. V. Banez, G. R. Barton, Y. T. Chiu, A. T. Deramo, G. H. Dietz, R. L. Gilliland, R. Hernandez, C. B. Klodell, J. A. Lambert, P. J. Mahar, Jr., J. C. Melnick, N. Pappas, E. Perry, C. E. Pichette, J. Schreiber, W. E. Sovik, J. W. Tandatnick, and K. F. Wieneke.

GRANT RETURNS



General Ulysses S. Grant returned from the past in what was possibly the most uproarious and outrageous episode ever to take place at a meeting of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

With the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" ringing in the ears of the assembled physicians and wives, General Grant, in full uniform, strode from the back of the room at the Youngstown Club. Amid delighted cheers and applause, he made his way to the head table, from whence he proceeded to read a scroll containing his general orders (anyone disobeying his orders was to be shot!)

The essence of the orders was that one, Howard Rempes, and wife Eleanor, would proceed to New York City for the express purpose of visiting Grant's tomb and such other spots as would interest them.

All of this was by way of presenting a gift of a tour to New York from the Council of the Medical Society to the executive secretary, whose interest in the Civil War General is well known.

As General Grant, Dr. Jim Anderson required no make-up. His remarkable resemblance to the bearded General has often been noted by Howard and by others. His sterling performance and surprise appearance at the Installation banquet is sure to be remembered as one of the high spots of 1976.

In Memoriam

HAROLD E. HATTHORN, M.D.

1901 - 1975

Dr. Harold E. Hatthorn, Internist, died of a heart ailment on Friday, Dec. 19, 1975. He was 74.

Dr. Hatthorn was born in Belmont County. He attended Bellaire High School and Ohio State University where he received both his B.S. and M.D. degree, the latter in 1926. He came to Youngstown in 1928 and opened an office at 2636½ Glenwood Ave. One of his first public services was that of school physician. At OSU, he was a member and captain of the first university gymnastic team.

During World War II, he was chief of medicine at the Army's 83rd General Hospital in England.

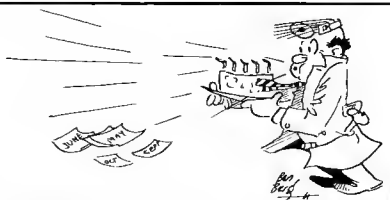
He was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a member of Phi Chi Fraternity and the Ohio Society of Internal Medicine. He was a member of Sulgrave Lodge F. & A.M., St. John's Commandery 20, Knights Templar and Al Koran Shrine.

Dr. Hatthorn retired in 1972. In 1974 he moved to Belleair, Florida, where he was residing at the time of his death.

RESOLUTION DEADLINE SET

Physicians wishing to submit resolutions to the Ohio State Medical Association House of Delegates must have the resolutions at OSMA headquarters no later than March 10th. To be considered, a resolution must be introduced on the floor of the House at the opening meeting, May 9th, by a delegate from the Mahoning County Medical Society. The 1976 annual meeting of the OSMA will be held at Cincinnati.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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Feb. 20
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Feb. 21
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J. S. Goldcamp

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L. M. Farolan

March 4
H. L. Queen

March 5
F. J. Gambrel

March 6
J. P. Harvey
D. Chung

March 9
A. N. Pannozzo

March 10
R. A. Brown
M. Szauder
N. G. Kastellorios

March 12
S. F. Petraglia

March 13
H. W. Haverland

March 15
B. J. Dreiling
J. Mersol

WHAT ABOUT RECORDS?

Patients may come and patients may go, but those medical records! They seem to go on forever. As a physician nears the time when he begins to think about retirement, he faces what is literally an insurmountable collection of patient records that fill numerous file cabinets and may even overflow into a storage area in his office. What to do!

Because this is a problem of importance to both patients and doctors, and an even more pressing problem to the widows of doctors, the Mahoning County Medical Society requested both the Ohio State Medical Association and the American Medical Association to issue some up-to-date guidelines for disposal of records. The following information comes from those two sources.

Jim Pohlman, OSMa legal counselor, has stated that a five-year period should be sufficient for the keeping of adult records. "Ohio's newly amended statute of limitations states that 'in no event shall any medical claim against a physician or hospital be brought more than four years after the act or omission constituting the alleged malpractice occurred.' Minors have only until the age of 14 to file suit. (Sec. 2305.11 Revised Code, amended 1975.) Therefore, records on adults shall be kept at least four years and with respect to minors, until the age of fourteen."

Mr. Pohlman noted that great emphasis should be placed on giving notice to patients of the need to transfer records and on obtaining the written statement of their choice of physician. The AMA states that "records may be transferred to another physician, but only with the consent of the patient. The patient's authorization and consent should be obtained in writing."

The AMA also emphasizes that medical records are the property of the physician, not the patient.

The AMA goes on to say, "These records may contain information that is vital to the later treatment of the patient; or perhaps the information in the records would be helpful in assisting the patient to qualify for an insurance policy, or a new job, or in the patient's claim for injuries resulting from an accident. It would be wasteful to destroy such potentially valuable records. It would be nice to think that the records would remain in existence as long as the patient lived, but, of course, this must be balanced against the limitations involved in retaining the records."

In summary:

1. Medical records are the property of the physician, not the patient.
2. Upon retirement or death of the doctor, notice should be given to his patients about the necessity for transferring records to another physician.
3. The patient's authorization and consent for transfer should be obtained in writing.
4. In accordance with the Ohio Statute of Limitations, adult patient records should be kept for another 4 years. Records of a minor should be kept until the patient reaches age 14.
5. Despite the Statute of Limitations, for the well-being of the patient, his medical records should be kept as long as it is feasible.

SCHOOL TRAINS MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

The Mahoning County Joint Vocational School located at 7300 North Palmyra Rd. in Canfield, Ohio offers students training in a Medical Assistants course as one of 27 courses from which they may choose. This 2 year program gives the student 1620 hours of training in the medical assistant field.

During the last semester of the senior year these students are eligible to participate in the early work placement program in which the student goes to school in the morning and works in a doctor's office or related medical area in the afternoon. For more information contact the school at 533-6871.

DRS. LIEBELT, NESBITT TO ADDRESS MCMS

There will be two outstanding speakers at the next two regularly scheduled meetings of the Mahoning County Medical Society. On Tuesday, March 16th, members will hear Dr. Robert A. Liebelt, Dean of the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Although many of our doctors have met Dr. Liebelt, this will be his first official address to the Medical Society.

On Tuesday, May 18th, the speaker will be Dr. Tom E. Nesbitt, Speaker of the AMA House of Delegates. Dr. Nesbitt will be the first official AMA representative to address the Mahoning County Medical Society since Dr. Ed Annis came to Youngstown in 1964.

There are only five more regular meetings scheduled for 1976. In addition to the two listed above, meetings will be held on Sept. 21, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21. A complete schedule of meetings is published on the "Contents" page of the *Bulletin* every issue.

MAIL AMA-ERF TO MCMS OFFICE

Contributions to AMA-ERF must go through the Mahoning County Medical Society in order that the Mahoning Auxiliary receive proper credit for the gift. This is a new ruling that has just gone into effect. Checks that are sent directly to Chicago will no longer be credited to the County from which they are sent.

Over the years, the Auxiliary of the Mahoning County Medical Society has compiled a notable record of promoting AMA-ERF contributions. They will continue to maintain this records if all doctors will cooperate with the new regulations. Doctors are requested to continue to make-out checks to AMA-ERF, but to send them to either the Medical Society office, or to the Auxiliary AMA-ERF chairman, Fran Barton.

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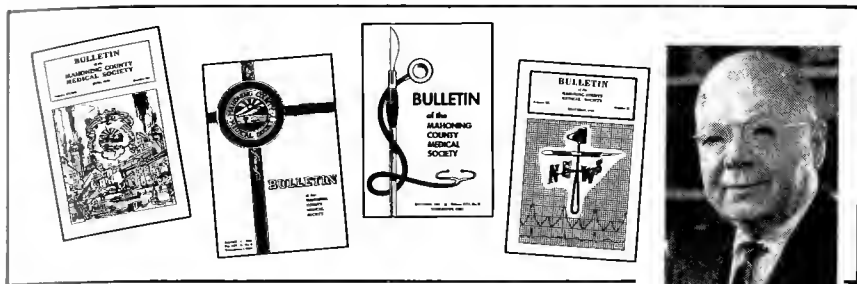
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From the Bulletin

FORTY YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1936

The Florence Crittenton Home opened its new fireproof building on McGuffey Road, replacing the old frame dwelling. The Junior League donated the equipment. Miss Sarah Sims, that grand person of revered memory, was Superintendent. She was the first Superintendent of the Youngstown Hospital. Obstetricians were: H. E. Fusselman, Herman Kling, J. A. Altdoerffer, Samuel Schwebel and A. J. Brandt. E. R. Thomas was the Pediatrician.

President Coe said "If you don't attend the meetings of your Medical Society, keep it a secret from your patients so they won't know you are behind the times!"

THIRTY YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1946

President Reilly said that the prevalence of tuberculosis was a serious health problem and urged the members to keep themselves informed about developments in this field. That was to be expected of the President of the Tuberculosis and Health Association.

The first annual banquet since the beginning of World War II was held at the Youngstown Country Club. The returned veterans were guests of the Society and it was a grand reunion.

Service records of Comdr. M. B. Goldstein and Lt. Col. Ivan Smith were published. Dick Middleton, Stan Myers, Steve Ondash, Asher Randell, Morris Rosenblum, John Russell, Wm. Sovik, R. V. Clifford, Barclay Brandmiller, Lewis Shensa, Al Cukerbaum and Brack Bowman were back home again. Al Phillips and Bob Tornello were still out somewhere and not heard from. Fred Schlecht was home on leave but scheduled to go out again for overseas duty. Gabe DeCicco received a belated promotion to Major.

The Home Savings and Loan Company received a letter of commendation from presidential aide Wallace Graham for holding vacant and undisturbed the offices of sixteen doctors away at war. When they came back their offices were ready to walk into and go to work, and no rent to pay.

TEN YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1966

Editor Jenkins said that the Declaration of Independence did not give us the right to pursue happiness in an automobile.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital Emergency was manned by a group of eight doctors from the Staff serving on twelve hour shifts. They were Frank Morrison, Rashid Abdu, Rene Cossette, D. J. Dallis, Milan Halmos, William Johnson, U. A. Melaragno and William Moskalik. They were known as the Doctors Emergency Service.

New members that month were: Samuel Adornato, Rudolph Basso and Isadore Mendel.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

Jan. 13, 1976

The regular meeting of the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 1976, at the Youngstown Club.

Dr. Sovik expressed the appreciation of Council to Dr. William Moskalik and Dr. Pat Brucoli, who served on the Council last year and whose terms expired.

Dr. Sovik appointed Dr. Anderson and Dr. Schreiber to be parliamentarians for the coming year.

Dr. Sovik introduced Mr. James F. Farrell, Directory Manager of Ohio Bell, who discussed the problems involved in publishing a telephone directory yellow pages, especially in relationship to requests from the Medical Society that the Society be allowed to check the final listings under "Physicians and Surgeons, M.D."

After Mr. Farrell left the meeting, the motion was made by Dr. Perry, and properly seconded that those D.O.s who have completed postgraduate training in M.D. hospitals and are eligible for membership in A.M.A. approved hospitals may be listed in the telephone directory under "Physicians and Surgeons, M.D." but must list themselves as "D.O." Motion was passed.

Dr. Schreiber, alternate delegate from OSMA to the American Medical Association, made a report on the AMA House of Delegates meeting at the Nov. 30-Dec. 3 Clinical Convention. He reported changes that indicate that the AMA is giving more support to the individual physician than before in fighting against government intervention in the practice of medicine.

Dr. Abdu made the recommendation that some arrangements be made to explain the Medical Society to hospital house staffs and that also they be invited to attend Medical Society meetings. Dr. Melnick volunteered to help Dr. Wiltzie with this project and Dr. Abdu volunteered to help Dr. Squicquero.

A letter was noted from the Junior League in reference to the establishment of the Realia Hearing Center. It was noted that the Medical Society had some representation through the wife of Dr. Adornato.

Dr. Anderson reported on the Dec. 17th meeting of the Liaison Committee with the Committee from the Mahoning Valley Health Planning Association. He noted that present were Mr. Harnish, William McKelvey, Rabbi Berkowitz and Aldin Cummins for the Association, and Dr. Tandatnick, Dr. Anderson and Mr. Rempes for the Medical Society. The joint committee agreed to meet at least every four months, with the next meeting to be scheduled in February.

Dr. Anderson made a motion, properly seconded, that the liaison committee to the Mahoning Valley Health Planning Association be appointed on a permanent basis, and that it consist of the president, vice president and the immediate past president of the Mahoning County Medical Society, the chairman being the president. Dr. Melnick made a motion to amend the motion to read "ad hoc" instead of "permanent". Motion was seconded and passed. Original amended motion was passed.

Dr. Anderson made a motion, properly seconded, that the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society recommend that the president appoint a member to the Medical Advisory Committee of the Emergency Health Services Coordinating Council of Eastern Ohio, Inc. Dr. Mahar made a motion to amend the original motion to state that Dr. Vuksta be appointed. The motion to amend was seconded and passed. The original amended motion was passed.

Dr. Sovik introduced discussion concerning the Federal Trade Commission filing charges against the AMA for proscribing advertising by its members. The motion was made by Dr. Melnick that we send a letter to the

OSMA and to the AMA supporting and endorsing the response of Dr. Holden and Dr. Parrott recommending that the AMA fight the charge. Motion was seconded and passed.

Dr. Sovik asked council members to give some thought to resolutions to be formulated and presented to the May House of Delegates meeting of OSMA. It was noted that deadline for resolutions is 60 days prior to the meeting.

It was noted that Nena LaBarbara, president of the Mahoning Chapter of the Ohio State Medical Assistants Association, will be installed as president of the State Association in May. It was suggested that the Mahoning County Medical Society would want to do something and the matter was referred to the Public Relations Committee to bring some appropriate answer to the next meeting.

Dr. Melnick introduced discussion concerning the Bicentennial. He suggested three Bicentennial activities for the Medical Society: (1) recondition or replace the tombstone of Dr. Timothy Woodbridge, first president of the Mahoning County Medical Society; (2) set up some sort of dedicatory plaque on Dutton Drive for Youngstown's first doctor, Dr. Charles Dutton; and (3) consider buying two large composite photos to be placed in the two hospitals, with the third one, which we already own, to be placed in the Arms Museum.

Dr. Abdu introduced discussion concerning care for the indigent patient. The motion was made by Dr. Lambert and seconded that the president appoint an ad hoc committee to study and develop a position paper on the subject of taking care of sick people, and that Dr. Abdu be made chairman of that committee. Motion was passed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Howard Rempes
Executive Secretary

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